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COVID-19 Update: Risk of Infection High in Lake County

2,000+ Doses of Vaccine Have Already Reached our County

Lake County, CA – The number of active COVID-19 cases remains high in our area, and local hospitals are feeling the strain. The Bay Area now has less than 10% ICU capacity, and both hospitals in Lake County are at capacity most days. If you have something serious going on, go to the Emergency Room. For non-emergent issues, try to go to your regular medical provider.

With the virus widespread in our communities, you are likely to be in contact with people who are contagious any time you are out in public. Go to stores early in morning or late, when the numbers of people are much lower. Work from home, if possible. Avoid socializing with people outside of your household for the next few weeks. If we all take these steps, the current surge should start going down by the end of the month.

Vaccine Update

Getting as many people vaccinated as possible will allow us to resume a more normal rhythm of life. The first and second doses of Pfizer Vaccine for 975 residents have been received through the Health Department, and 900 doses of the Moderna vaccine. About 500 more have been received via community healthcare partners. Over half of the initial doses have been administered in just 3 weeks, despite overlap with holidays and COVID cases surging. We are working hard to ensure Lake County residents get every dose we can access.

People frequently ask us when they can get the vaccine. We are currently managing an unknown supply schedule (about 300 vaccines a week, not nearly enough) and setting up the infrastructure to provide the vaccine to the community, including outreach to medical partners and pharmacies. State Guidelines determine priority:

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/CDPH-Allocation-Guidelines-for-COVID-19-Vaccine-During-Phase-1A-Recommendations.aspx>

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Vaccine-Prioritization.aspx>

More information is available at: <https://covid19.ca.gov/vaccines/>

Tier 1a (see attached graphic) will be finished by the end of next week (except for nursing home residents, who will be vaccinated through a partnership with pharmacies in the coming weeks).

Those 75 years and older and some essential workers will receive the vaccine next; the week of January 18 is our goal. Teachers and school staff who have contact with kids will be prioritized, in the interest of getting schools open as soon as possible. Once this plan is functioning, we will expand to childcare workers and essential workers in food and agriculture. More information will be available next week.

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